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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/661,693	09/14/2000	Sathasivan Indiran Pather	CIMA 3.0-030 CONT II	2096
530	7590	05/18/2004	EXAMINER	
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK 600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST WESTFIELD, NJ 07090			LAMM, MARINA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1616	

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/661,693	PATHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Marina Lamm	1616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22,23,25-36,83-91 and 93-97 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22,23,25-36,83-91 and 93-97 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgment is made of the amendment filed 2/2/04. Claims pending are 22, 23, 25-36, 83-91 and 93-97. Claims 1-21, 24, 37-82, 92 and 98-104 have been cancelled.

Double Patenting

1. The provisional rejection of Claim 95 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2-4 of copending Application No. 10/080,016 is maintained for the reasons of the record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. The rejection of Claims 22, 23, 25-36, 83-91, 93, 94, 96 and 97 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robinson et al. (US 6,071,539) is maintained for the reasons of the record.
4. The rejection of Claim 95 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robinson et al. in view of Norling et al. (US 5,958,458) is maintained for the reasons of the record.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 2/2/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's arguments, the recitation "adapted for direct oral administration across the oral mucosa" has not been given patentable weight because

Art Unit: 1616

the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951). Further, the Applicant argues that "there is no suggestion or teaching in Robinson that the active ingredient is intended to be transported across the oral mucosa during the time that the tablet is present in the mouth." See p. 10 of the Remarks. In response, Robinson explicitly teaches that "once the tablet is placed in the patient's mouth, it will disintegrate substantially completely" upon exposure to saliva. See col. 7, lines 50-59; col. 8, lines 7-9. The active ingredients released from the tablet will be inherently absorbed in the mouth (at least to some extent) through the oral mucosa because they are the same active ingredients as claimed in the instant claims, e.g. prochlorperazine. In response to applicant's argument that "the motivation to modify the amount of effervescent couple in combination with the pH adjusting substance as in the present claims in order to achieve an improved transport of the active ingredient across the oral mucosa is totally absent in Robinson", the fact that applicant has recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the suggestion of the prior art cannot be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985). Further, Robinson teaches amount of the effervescent granules in the tablets ranging from about 2 to about 90% by weight of the final tablet

Art Unit: 1616

composition (see col. 8, lines 26-34), which overlaps with the instantly claimed range of 5 to 80% by weight. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the Robinson and Norling references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Robinson suggests that analgesics can be used in their effervescent formulation. Norling teaches that fentanyl, among other analgesics, can be used in effervescent tablets including those of oral and buccal administration. See col. 6, lines 23-24; col. 12, lines 11-18; col. 13, lines 30-31; col. 36, Example 13. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the effervescent formulations of Robinson such that to employ fentanyl. One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this to obtain effervescent analgesic formulations as suggested by Norling.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marina Lamm whose telephone number is (571) 272-0618. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 11am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman Page, can be reached at (571) 272-0602.

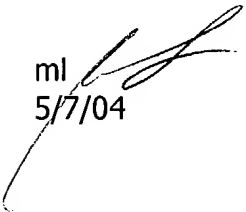
The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/661,693
Art Unit: 1616

Page 6

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5/7/04



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